REMARKS

The Office Action of November 23, 1999 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In order to obtain a patent without further prosecution, rejected claims 19-23 are being canceled, along with withdrawn claims 24 and 25. Furthermore, claim 17 is being amended in response to the indefiniteness rejection in Section 3 of the Office Action. The Examiner is thanked for his courtesy in explaining the origin of the rejection (that is, the amendment to claim14) and suggesting a revision to overcome it.

A similar problem was found in claim 15. That is, the old "at least one" language remained in claim 15 despite the amendment to claim 14, changing "at least one dye" to "a plurality of dyes." Claim 15 has been amended to overcome this problem.

In view of the amendments to claims 15 and 17, and the cancellation of the other rejected and withdrawn claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 28,134

VENABLE P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998 Telephone: (202) 942-4800

Telefax : (202) 962-8300

AW/SJB #183710